



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

INTERNATIONAL REPORTS SENT TO THE DOWAGER QUEEN OF SWEDEN

THE Councillors of the International Council have had all their reports bound in one volume for presentation to Her Majesty Queen Sophia, Dowager Queen of Sweden, whose interest in nursing sent the splendid delegation of Swedish nurses to the London Congress last summer.

THE FLOODS IN PARIS

EVERYONE who knows Paris even slightly will feel doubly distressed at the terrible disaster that has afflicted the beautiful city. According to the daily papers, the floods have invaded the Salpêtrière Hospital, in which we all feel a special interest on account of the delightful recollections we have of hospitality shown us there within its historic walls, and the new school for nurses which is now a part of it. Many of the patients have had to be carried through the flood to the Boucicault Hospital, and we may be sure that the pupil nurses have all had their share of exciting adventure. Paris has our deepest sympathy and best wishes.

FORCIBLE FEEDING IN ENGLISH PRISONS

THE forcible feeding of women political prisoners in English prisons by the orders of the unspeakably craven late Home Secretary is developing into a national scandal, and touches in different ways both the medical and nursing professions. Even Russia has never resorted to the cowardly form of torture of forcibly feeding resisting prisoners who are neither ill nor insane, and this during a period of three and four months. The medical men attached to the prisons have, of course, had to obey the orders given them by their superiors in the Government; this is self-understood, but the profession is now turning under the attempts of the Government to place the entire responsibility for this procedure, which is rousing the indignation of the whole world, upon the medical officers. *The British Medical Journal* of December 18 has a long editorial dealing with the scandal, and resenting in the plainest terms the attempt to throw all the odium upon the prison physicians. Sir Victor

Horsley, one of the most distinguished medical men in Great Britain, and a champion of the nurses in registration matters, has written a strong protest to the Government against the forcible feeding, calling it the miserable expedient of a weak minister and an outrage on a political offender. He also points out in terms of authority the dangers to health involved. Many prominent physicians have signed the protest. Among the prisoners thus cruelly treated have been several nurses. Miss Wilson, who is a nurse, has protested in *Nursing Notes* against the added insult to injury, in that the taxes of women are applied to the support of a government which applies coercion to women while denying them their right of representation. Aside from all else, it seems as if nurses and physicians might both protest against the degradation of the healing art and of one of its last resorts for the preservation of life, in being used as a brutal method to suppress free speech and the demand for justice.

A WOMAN POLICE OFFICER

FROM Sister Agnes Karll comes a most moving and impressive "human document," the account of the work of a woman who has for a number of years held the official position of assistant to the police in Stuttgart; Sister Henriette Arendt (is she probably, with the title of Sister, a nurse also?), who in a small and neatly bound book of some 115 pages has related, in the simplest and most earnest fashion, entirely without waste of words and with the knowledge and authority of the expert and master of her art, the scope and content of her office as policewoman. She was appointed the first woman police officer in Germany in February, 1903, her post being in Stuttgart. Her duties were to watch over and care for the women prisoners and to follow them up with help and care after their release. The work in general seems to be similar to that of our "probation officers," some of whom, as everyone knows, are women.

A "foreword" by Dr. Naumann makes an earnest plea for the wide extension of such work by women, as officers of the state, and points out the hopeless and wasted character of mere punishment as against reformation. But Sister Henriette dwells upon the need of prevention, and illustrates her point with the saddest of histories. She gives terrible evidence of the misery arising from inheritance, and names the group of the hereditarily handicapped as the largest group among her charges. She considers prostitution in all its phases, with burning words for the hypocrisy and indifference of society, and wonders that women have not long since protested against its organization, that dire insult to all womanhood.

She describes the various ways, all inadequate enough, in which her charges are helped and taught. The book should be widely read and its lessons laid to heart. We must hear from Sister Henriette in Cologne.

PROGRESS IN AUSTRIA

FROM the German nurses' journal we learn that steps are being taken to establish a school for nurses on modern lines in a division of the immense General Hospital at Vienna, under the direction of two of the chiefs, and that applications have been made to the German Nurses' Association to supply the superintendent of nurses, an assistant or home sister, four surgical and four medical head nurses. This is most interesting news, and we shall look eagerly to know the later developments. Might we venture to suggest to the medical chiefs that they let Sister Agnes draw up the rock-bottom principles for the work? They will then not only be sound, but workable, too. May the day of twenty-four hour regular duty and eight hours "bei-dienst" in that vast place soon vanish into the past! Good luck to the new school.

ITEMS

AUSTRALIAN nurses are dealing seriously in their associations with the problem of the care of the middle class, and a system of hourly nursing seems to them to be the way in which it can be best worked out, all things taken into consideration.

THE advance of practical over theoretical instruction is evidenced in the change made by the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association in their conditions for a special certificate for technical fitness to nurses who are preparing for positions as superintendent. The lectures previously given on hospital economics and training-school management are to be replaced by practical work, outlined as follows: Twelve months' post-graduate responsible work as a staff nurse, head nurse, or sister in a recognized training school or registered private hospital or other responsible position or work deemed by the council equivalent thereto; a certificate of cookery from a recognized teacher of cookery, and a certificate of having attended the course of lectures on dietetics arranged by the R.V.T.N.A.; a certificate of four months' practical work under a registered matron in a registered training school of not less than sixty daily occupied beds, the work dealing with the preparation and taking of nurses' classes, supervision of wards and servants, and the selection of same; the linen room and its management, bedding, etc.; the values and prices of all goods for household and surgical uses; taking stock

and balancing at the half-year; and a certificate from the matron that such practical work has been satisfactorily performed, and to pass an examination therein before a board appointed by the council for the purpose; the special nursing certificate of the association in infectious diseases nursing. It is also recommended that candidates obtain some experience in private nursing.

THE French nurses' journal criticizes with deserved severity the new rule of the War Department, making black merino dresses the regulation uniform for the nurses. We suggest that they refuse to wear it. It is too absurd in these days to be dressed according to the aseptic ideas of the year one! What a pity that military officers so often have every kind of sense except common-sense! This fearless and highly ethical journal also takes up seriously another defect of discipline which we need not go into, as American nurses would not understand it. *La Garde-Malade Hospitalière* is like a lighthouse, never failing to point out the right way, and show the reefs and pitfalls in the way of true nursing progress.

THE English nurses have a great many very excellent League journals, and they are all so very prettily gotten up. Every year or so another appears, and it seems a pity that some one of our enterprising alumnæ associations should not make a collection of them. The International Council of Nurses' library in London is probably the only place where a complete collection can be found, and some day, no doubt, antiquarians will pay their weight in gold for some of the first numbers.

ALREADY great interest in our next international meeting in Cologne is being expressed in many quarters. An extraordinary and gratifying amount of attention is being shown by the medical fraternity of European countries, and it is probable that we shall be honored by the attendance of many of the most progressive of these medical men. We need not say how welcome they will be.

“Never, never let the nurse forget that she must look for the fault of the nursing as much as for the fault of the disease in the symptoms of the patient.”—FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.